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When Mike Quigley returned to the [United States House of Representatives](#) from the Easter recess on Tuesday, he was armed with a couple of atypical vacation insights from his Congressional district: how to replace a 100-year-old water main and how to cook great French fries without a timer.

“Entertainment Tonight” and Politico.com please say hello to Mike Quigley, star of a self-produced “Undercover (sort of) Congressman.” It’s a nontelevised “reality show” in which a protagonist seeks to actually learn something, not merely avoid embarrassment and gain celebrity.

So while some constituents sought a spring-break tan, and too many others simply looked for work, Mr. Quigley, a Democrat, helped the City of Chicago lay a water main in Lakeview; went fishing for Asian carp with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; hung out with Melrose Park police officers and River Grove firefighters; worked a counter at Connie’s Beef in Elmwood Park; assisted a postal carrier in Roscoe Village; dressed a Chicago-style hot dog at a Superdawg at Devon and Milwaukee Avenues; and had a characteristically awful Chicago Public Schools lunch at my kindergartner’s North Side elementary school.



It is a common mistake to think that the only way to get a good idea of what a company is doing is to look at its financial statements. In fact, there are many other factors that can influence a company's performance, such as its management, its products, and its market. For example, a company with a strong management team and a diverse product line may be able to withstand a downturn in the market better than a company with a weak management team and a single product line. Therefore, it is important to consider all of these factors when evaluating a company's performance.